(ii) Global fishery trend and their implications on fishing communities,

(iii) International instruments on fisheries and their relevance to fisheries,

(iv) Substainability and role of women in Fisheries, and

(v) Common property fishing rights: Coastal resources for coastal communities.

Development of Coconut farming in Kerala

2475. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any decision to assist the Kerala Government to implement the project for development of coconut farming system in the State;

(b) if no decision has been taken, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Government would give necessary financial assistance to the Kerala Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Project for Development of Coconut Farming System in Kerala envisages eradication of root (wilt) affected disease advanced productivity of existing palms. Most of the measures suggested in the project are already being supported under various programmes of the Coconut Development Board. During 1997-98, out of a total allocation of Rs. 19.75 crores for various cococut development programmes, the Board released Rs. 10.28 crores to the State of Kerala. For the year 1998-99, an allocation of Rs. 10.41 crores has been made for Kerala.

किसानों द्वारा लिए गए ऋणों का पुनर्निर्धारण

2476. डॉ॰ वाई॰ लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आन्ध्र प्रदेश और कर्नाटक के एक शिष्ट मंडल ने राज्यों में उन किसानों द्वारा लिए गये ऋणों का पुनर्निर्धारण करने के लिए सरकार से अनुरोध किया है जिनकी फसलें मानसून न आने और महामारी के प्रकोप के कारण प्रभावित हुई हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) जी हां, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने आन्ध्र प्रदेश राज्य सरकार के परामर्श से प्रभावित किसानों के लिए एक राहत पैकेज की घोषणा की है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ दो वर्षों की अवधि के लिए प्रभावित किसानों से मूल राशि अथवा ब्याज की वसूली न करना और दो वर्षों की प्रारंभिक विलम्बन अवधि को छोड़कर सात वर्षों की अवधि के लिए ऋण का परिवर्तन/पुनर्निर्धारण शामिल है। कर्नाटक राज्य में भी, राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर समिति ने संबंधित बैंकों को जिला अधिकारियों द्वारा सामान्य उपज के 50 प्रतिशत से कम उपज के लिए जारी किये गये प्रमाण पत्रों के आधार पर चालू ऋणों को पुनर्निर्धारित करने की सलाह दी है।

Rural Credit Policy for Farmers

2477. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the more than 170 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during this year, is so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had chalked out any rural credit policy especially for the farmers engaged in the cultivation of commercial crops like cotton, dal, chillies, tomatoes etc. who are the worstaffected persons because of high cost involved in the cultivation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps Government propose to take to ameliorate the sufferings of poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have reported suicidal deaths by farmers numbering 269 and 82, respectively, mainly on account of damage to crops due to adverse weather conditions resulting to past attack and indebtedness of the farmers.

(b) and (c) Considering the large scale crop loss in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh, the RBI/NABARD decided to provide a package of several measures of relief for the affected farmers, which include:

(i) Rescheduling of bank loans.

(ii) No recovery of either principal or interest of an agricultural loan for a period of two years and amounts not collected during these two years will be rescheduled for a period of 7 years.

(iii) Immediate disbursal of credit by banks for fresh crops on the enhanced scales of finance recently revised by the District Level Committee.

(iv) Reduction of rate of interest to 4% for small and marginal farmers who are eligible under DRI scheme.

(v) No compounding of interest in respect of rescheduled loans; no levy of penal interest and waiver of penal interest, if charged.

In addition, the following measures have been or are proposed to be taken:

(a) Revamping of the co-operative credit structure to ensure timely and adequate availability of credit.

(b) Modifying the Crop Insurance Scheme by increasing the coverage of farmers and crops to make it more useful as an instrument of risk management.

Entry of Multinational Companies in the field of Fishing

2478. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to allow some multi-national companies to come unhindered into the fishing grounds in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the interest of fishermen and small entrepreneurs based in Andhra Pradesh have been adequately safeguarded before coming to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Aquarium at Lucknow

2479. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up a modern large aquarium at Lucknow has been considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A proposal for establishment of a Training-cum-Awareness centre at Lucknow, consisting of a museum, lecture hall, auditorium and aquarium at a total cost of Rs. 2.07 crores was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh during November, 1997. The proposal was examined and a sum of Rs. 50,000/- was released to the State Government for preparation of feasibility report during March, 1998. Based on the feasibility